

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 01356 301611 Z

52

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-14 USIA-12 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 AID-20

FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 SAL-01 STR-08

CEA-02 NIC-01 /166 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT EGEN YO

SUBJECT: TITO'S SPEECH TO FACTORY WORKERS IN ZELEZNIK

1. SUMMARY: ON MARCH 29 PRESIDENT TITO GAVE LENGTHY TALK TO WORKERS OF IVO LOLA RIBAR FACTORY IN ZELEZNIK, NEAR BELGRADE, USING OCCASION OF PLANT'S 25 TH ANNIVERSARY TO GIVE POSITIVE ASSESSMENT OF REGIME'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON BEHALF OF YUGOSLAV WORKERS DURING THIS PERIOD. TITO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MME. BROZ, LC SERBIA PRESIDENT TIHOMIR VLASKALIC, AND PRESIDENT SERBIAN ASSEMBLY DRAGOSLAV MARKOVIC. IN COURSE OF HIS TALK TITO NOTED THAT HE EXPECTS TO VISIT OTHER TOWNS AND FACTORIES IN SERBIA IN NEAR FUTURE. END SUMMARY

2. TITO EMPHASIZED THAT ONLY THE PARTY -- IN WHICH HE SAID " SOME PEOPLE" HAD EARLIER LOST FAITH -- WAS CAPABLE OF SOLVING ALL THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF YUGOSLAV SOCIETY. HE SAID HE WAS AGAINST PARTY'S " COMMANDING" WHAT WENT ON IN YUGOSLAVIA, BUT SOME INTERVENTION WAS REQUIRED TO HELP SITUATION OF WORKERS. TITO PROMISED THAT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS WOULD TAKE CARE OF MANY PROBLEMS AFFECTING WORKING CLASS, MENTIONING SPECIFICALLY

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PAGE 02 BELGRA 01356 301611 Z

MEANINGFUL PUNISHMENT FOR ECONOMIC CRIMINALS, BUT CAUTIONED THAT WORKERS MUST BE PATIENT, THAT SOLUTIONS TO THEIR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR CONDITIONS WOULD TAKE TIME. HE PLEDGED HIMSELF AND HIS LEADERSHIP TO WORK AS HARD AS THEY WERE ABLE AND ASKED WORKERS TO DO LIKEWISE, CHARGING THEM WITH BASIC RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAKING SELF- MANAGEMENT WORK. HE POINTED TO ENEMIES OF SELF- MANAGEMENT INSIDE COUNTRY, SOME UNDER FOREIGN INFLUENCE. BUT " EVEN TODAY' S CAPITALIST SOCIETY IS INVOLVED IN NUMEROUS DIFFICULTIES", HE SAID.

3. TITO CALLED SELF- MANAGEMENT A FORCE WHICH WENT BEYOND THE FACTORIES TO INCLUDE LEADERSHIP ROLE FOR WORKING CLASS IN SOCIETY IN GENERAL. HOWEVER, WORKERS THEMSELVES MUST DEMAND THEIR PROPER ROLE IN SOCIETY AND NOT EXPECT THEIR CHIEFS TO TO EVERY- THING FOR THEM. TITO SAID HE WOULD REITERATE HIS DEFINITION OF WORKING CLASS: IT INCLUDED NOT JUST UNSKILLED WORKERS, BUT ALSO EXPERTS -- ALL THE CREATIVE PERSONNEL IN ANY WORK ENTERPRISE.

4. TITO TOOK PRIDE IN HIS LEADERSHIP' S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN " SOLVING" PROBLEMS OF NATIOALISM IN CROATIA, SERBIA, AND ELSEWHERE. HE SAID SOME NATIONALISTIC PHENOMENA HAD EVEN FALLEN INTO CATEGORY OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY BUT HAD BEEN PUT DOWN HARD. TITO CLAIMED HE HAD MADE CLEAR IN HIS SPEECHES WHAT STEPS HAD TO BE TAKEN, BUT SOME (IN POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY) HAD IGNORED HIS INSTRUCTIONS. FOR THAT REASON, " DRASTIC MEASURES" HAD BEEN REQUIRED IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS, AND IN SOME PLACES ENTIRE LEADERSHIPS HAD HAD TO BE CHANGED. PROBLEM HAD NOT BEEN NATIONALISM ALONE, BUT OTHER " ANOMALIES" AS WELL -- LIBERALISM AND A KIND OF ABSTRACT " DEMOCRATISM" WHICH HE CALLED MORE HARMFUL THAN USEFUL. TITO DID NOT SIGNAL ANY ADDITIOANL LEADER- SHIP CHANGES.

5. COMMENT: FROM EXTENSIVE TV COVERAGE OF HIS SPEECH AND " DISCUSSIONS" WITH SELECTED WORKERS FROM FACTORY, IT IS APPARENT THAT TITO REMAINS IN GOOD HEALTH. HE IS STILL ABLE TO SIT THROUGH HOURS OF DULL SPEECHES AND HIMSELF SPEAK AT LENGTH, APPARENTLY WITHOUT NOTES, MAKING HIS POINTS IN LOGICAL ORDER AND GETTING CLEAR MESSAGE ACROSS. IN THIS CASE MESSAGE WAS THAT WORKERS' RIGHTS ARE HIGH IN YUGOSLAV LEADERSHIP' S LIST OF PRIORITIES, BUT NO MIRACLES CAN BE LOOKED FOR. LARGE MEASURE OF SELF- HELP CALLED FOR. TITO SOUNDED TO US SURPRISINGLY DEFENSIVE OVER CRITICISM OF SELF- MANAGEMENT, PRESUMABLY COMING NOT ONLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BELGRA 01356 301611 Z

FROM " TECHNOCRATS". PARTY CONSERVATIVES MAY HAVE

BEEN PUSHING HARD FOR RETURN TO GREATER CONTROL FROM CENTER
AS NECESSARY STEP TO OVERCOME SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

6. WE CONSIDER TITO'S INDIRECT CRITICISM OF FORMER SERBIAN
PARTY CHIEF NIKEZIC (IN PARA 4 ABOVE) TO BE RATHER MILD,
ADMITTING THAT NIKEZIC BRAND OF " DEMOCRATISM" AT LEAST HAD
SOME USEFULNESS AND WAS NOT ALTOGETHER BAD.
TOON

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